

APPENDIX

Please amend Claims 1, 8 and 12 as follows:

1. (twice amended) A method of forming and filling reclosable plastic bags comprising the steps of:

continuously advancing a base film of plastic bag making material horizontally in a longitudinal direction of said base film;

loading product in first and second longitudinally extending lines onto said base film at spaced apart bag length intervals, the products on said lines being disposed in transversely aligned rows;

applying first and second slider operated zippers onto said base film between said lines of product, each of said zippers comprising first and second profiles having mating interlocking portions, and first and second flanges extending from respective said first and second profiles;

applying a cover film of plastic bag making material over said base film covering said lines of product and said zippers, said cover film being joined to said base film along longitudinally extending lines disposed on sides of said product opposite to said first and second zippers;

joining a first portion of a width of the first flange of each of said first and second zippers to said base film whereby a second portion of the width of the first flange of each of said first and second zippers is free of joinder to said base film, and joining a first portion of the width of the second flange of each of said first and second zippers to said cover film whereby a second

portion of a width of the second flange of each of said first and second zippers is free of joinder to said cover film;

longitudinally joining said base film to said cover film between said first and second zippers ;

sealing said base film to said cover film along transverse seal sections on opposite sides of each row of product, said transverse seal sections extending between said longitudinally extending lines joining said base film to said cover film;

longitudinally cutting through said base film between said two zippers; and cutting through said transverse seal sections to release filled reclosable bags.

8. (twice amended) The method in accordance with claim 1 wherein said first flange of said first zipper is joined to said first flange of said second zipper and [said first and second zippers are attached to said base film by sealing said joined first flanges to said base film] wherein said step of sealing said base film to said cover film is performed through a connection of said first flanges.

12. (twice amended) An apparatus for forming and filling reclosable plastic bags comprising:

means for horizontally advancing a base film of plastic bag making material continuously in a longitudinal direction of said base film;

means for transversely loading product in first and second longitudinally extending lines onto said base film at spaced apart bag length intervals, the products on said lines being disposed in transversely aligned rows;

means for applying first and second slider operated zippers onto said base film between said lines of product, each of said zippers comprising first and second profiles having mating interlocking portions, and first and second flanges extending from respective said first and second profiles;

means for applying a cover film of plastic bag making material over said base film covering said lines of product and said zippers, said cover film being joined to said base film along longitudinally extending lines disposed on sides of said product opposite to said first and second zippers;

means for joining a first portion of a width of the first flange of each of said first and second zippers to said base film whereby a second portion of a width of the first flange of each of said first and second zippers is free of joinder to said base film and joining a second portion of a width of the second flange of each of said first and second zippers to said cover film whereby a second portion of a width of the second flange of each of said first and second zippers is free of joinder to said cover film;

means for sealing said base film to said cover film along transverse seal sections on opposite sides of each row of product, said transverse seal sections extending between said longitudinally extending lines joining said base film to said cover film;

means for longitudinally cutting through said base film between said two zippers; and means for cutting through said transverse seal sections to release filled reclosable bags.